

South African Heritage Resources Agency
P.O. Box 4637
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Date: 04 July 2022
Enquiries: M Muelelwa
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Dear Sir/Madam

CASE ID 18701: CONSTRUCTION OF POWER LINE OF APPROXIMATELY 3.469 KM TO SUPPLY ATLAS TELECOMMUNICATION TOWER WITH ELECTRICITY.

Eskom North West Operation Unit (NWOU) acknowledges receipt of the SAHRA Permit for the above-mentioned project dated 21 June 2022.

In terms of the comments received, Eskom NWOU hereby likes to provide clarity on the following considering the type of project and site situation.

Interim comment

Response to Notice of Intent to Development (NID)

The SAHRA requests that the following is undertaken in terms of section 38 (3) of the NHRA (25 of 1999), as the proposed line will occur in areas near water sources, an HIA of the potential impact of the proposed line on archaeological resources is required. The assessment must be conducted by a qualified archaeologist.

Eskom would like to provide clarity regarding the water sources on site. The proposed power line will be more than 100m away from the pan/water source. As opposed to the google aerial image, the actual area on site that shows depression is very small compared to that on the google image. Furthermore, the pan on site does not indicate any ecological functionality due to unavailability of aquatic vegetation. Noting that the proposed development is a linear activity, no impact associated with the water source/pan are anticipated.

Sensitivity results from National Environmental Screening Tool

Eskom has conducted screening using the screening tool published by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment in terms of the EIA Regulations 2014, to check the proposed site environmental sensitivity. **Page 12** of the screening report shows the Archaeological and Cultural Heritage theme sensitivity. The sensitivity results show low sensitivity when it comes to this theme. Kindly see attached screening report attached as annexure 1.

Environmental Management Programme

As part of Eskom's Integrated Environmental Management System there is a commitment to the development & implementation of an Environmental Management Programme (EMPr) for all Eskom projects. The EMPr gives guidelines for environmental best practice, to the contractor commissioned to construct the proposed power line. The document describes how activities that could have a

negative impact on the environment will be managed and monitored and impacted areas rehabilitated. Kindly find attached the EMPr for the proposed Atlas Tower power line as annexure 2.

Other control measures in place

- An Environmental Officer will be present on site during the construction activities to monitor the progress.
- An induction will be carried out to all contractor employees on site prior to any work. The induction will also cover chance find procedure.
- If heritage resources are uncovered during the course of the development, the activity will be stopped, and area barricaded, a professional archaeologist will be contracted as soon as possible to inspect the heritage resource.
- If any evidence of archaeological sites or remains (e.g. remnants of stone-made structures, indigenous ceramics, bones, stone artefacts, ostrich eggshell fragments, charcoal and ash concentrations), fossils or other categories of heritage resources are found during the proposed development, relevant SAHRA unit will be alerted.

In light of the above information, the nature of the proposed development and site sensitivity, Eskom hereby like to humbly request SAHRA to consider this additional information in support of the application. Furthermore, we would like to request an exemption not to appoint an Archaeologist as per the comment.

Should you require more information and or clarification, please feel free to contact the writer above.

Hopefully you will find this in order

Yours Faithfully



Mulalo Muelelwa

Environmental Officer- LDE

Eskom North West OU

04 July 2022